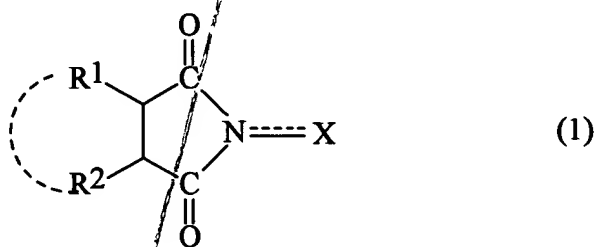


wherein each of R^c, R^d, R^e, and R^f is, identical to or different from one another, a hydrogen atom or an organic group, where R^c, R^d, and R^e may be combined to form a ring with the adjacent carbon atom or carbon-carbon bond,

in the presence of molecular oxygen by catalysis of an imide compound shown by the following formula (1):

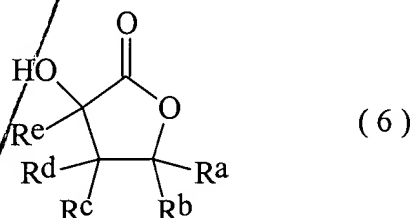


wherein each of R¹ and R² is, identical to or different from each other, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl

Cont
B1

group, a cycloalkyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, or an acyl group, where R^1 and R^2 may be combined to form a double bond, or an aromatic or non-aromatic ring; X is an oxygen atom or a hydroxyl group; and one or two N-substituted cyclic imido groups indicated in the formula (1) may be further bonded to said R^1 , R^2 , or to the double bond or aromatic or non-aromatic ring formed together by R^1 and R^2 ,

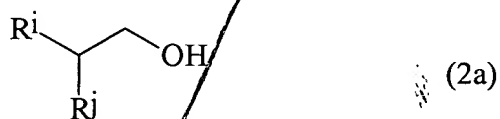
to yield an α -hydroxy- γ -butyrolactone derivative shown by the following formula (6):



wherein R^a , R^b , R^c , R^d , and R^e have the same meanings as defined above.

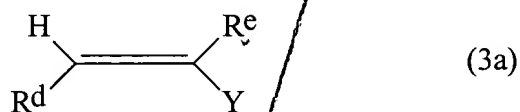
B2

14. (Amended) A process for producing an organic compound according to claim 1, said process comprising the step of allowing (A12) an alcohol shown by the following formula (2a):

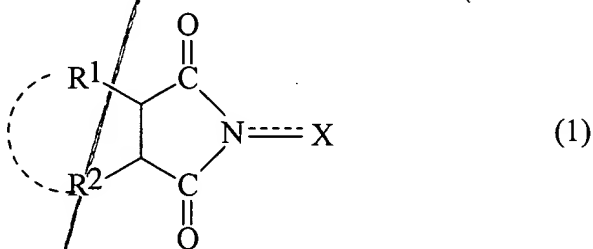


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B2

wherein each of R^i and R^j is, identical to or different from each other, a hydrogen atom or an organic group, where R^i and R^j may be combined to form a ring with the adjacent carbon atom, to react with (B13) an active olefin shown by the following formula (3a):



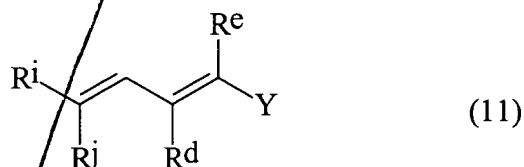
wherein each of R^d and R^e is, identical to or different from each other, a hydrogen atom or an organic group; and Y is an electron attracting group, where R^d , R^e and Y may be combined to form a ring with the adjacent carbon atom or carbon-carbon bond, in the presence of molecular oxygen by catalysis of an imide compound shown by the following formula (1):



wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is, identical to or different from each other, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl

cont
B2

group, a cycloalkyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, or an acyl group, where R^1 and R^2 may be combined to form a double bond, or an aromatic or non-aromatic ring; X is an oxygen atom or a hydroxyl group; and one or two N-substituted cyclic imido groups indicated in the formula (1) may be further bonded to said R^1 , R^2 , or to the double bond or aromatic or non-aromatic ring formed together by R^1 and R^2 , to yield a conjugated unsaturated compound shown by the following formula (11):



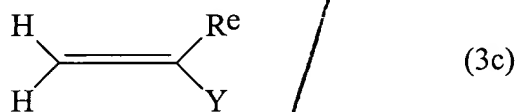
wherein R^d , R^e , R^i , R^j and Y have the same meanings as defined above.

B3 sub 2
C2

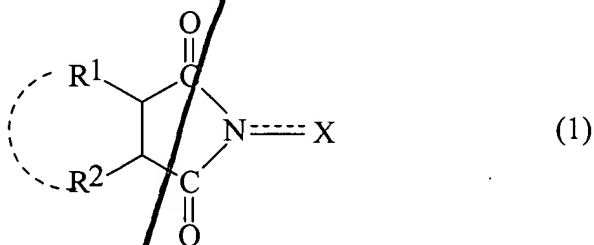
18. (Amended) A process for producing an organic compound according to claim 1, said process comprising the step of allowing (A31) a compound having a methine carbon atom and being shown by the following formula (14):



~~wherein each of R^o , R^p and R^q is, identical to or different from one another, an organic group, where R^o , R^p , and R^q may be combined to form a ring with the adjacent carbon atom, to react with (B15) an active olefin shown by the following formula (3c):~~



~~wherein R^e is a hydrogen atom or an organic group; and Y is an electron attracting group, in the presence of molecular oxygen by catalysis of an imide compound shown by the following formula (1):~~

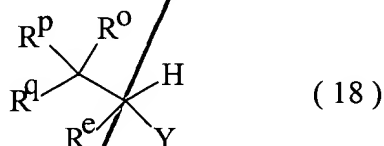


~~wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is, identical to or different from each other, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a cycloalkyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, or an acyl group, where R^1 and R^2 may be combined to form a double bond, or an aromatic or~~

cont
B3

non-aromatic ring; X is an oxygen atom or a hydroxyl group; and one or two N-substituted cyclic imido groups indicated in the formula (1) may be further bonded to said R^1 , R^2 , or to the double bond or aromatic nor non-aromatic ring formed together by R^1 and R^2 ,

to yield an organic compound shown by the following formula (18):



wherein R^e , R^o , R^p , R^q , and Y have the same meanings as defined above.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version showing the changes made to the application by this Amendment.